

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL  
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room  
3601 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Teleconference

Meeting Date

November 5, 2012  
12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Kathy Fitzgerald  
Eric Gebhart, Chair  
Ric Nelson  
Amy Simpson  
Taylor Gregg

Staff:

Millie Ryan, Executive Director  
Teresa Holt  
Patrick Reinhart

Prepared by: Sheryl Cobb  
Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Roll Call**

**READING OF THE COUNCIL MISSION**

Taylor Gregg read the Council's mission statement: Improving the lives of people with disabilities.

**GOOD NEWS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Teresa announced that Kelly Donnally resigned from the Stone Soup Group. Diana Strock is the acting Director at Stone Soup.

Ric shared that he had both good and bad news. He was in the UAA newspaper last week concerning the TAPESTRY program. The bad news is that they got everything about me wrong. They called him Ric Welson. They said that he had an intellectual and cognitive disability.

Taylor shared that she gets to spend Thanksgiving with her whole family for the third time ever.

Eric said that this Thanksgiving, he gets to cross something off his Alaska Bucket List. He and his wife are going to Barrow so they can spend a couple of days inside the Arctic Circle.

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Ric Nelson **MOVED** to approve the agenda. The motion **PASSED**.

**APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PAST MEETING**

The minutes from August 6 were sent out for review. Taylor said that she had not received the email. The minutes were sent out again to Taylor. Amy Simpson **MOVED** for the minutes to be passed as read. The motion **PASSED**.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Millie shared that we did receive our official grant award for the Employment Initiative.

Millie also received correspondence around our allocation that we get to be the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. That is federally funded and they don't know yet how much for sure we will be getting. They are starting to do partial awards.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Debrief October Council Meeting**

Eric said that he thought the October Council meeting went pretty well. He felt that we had lots of space in the meeting room. He was surprised that we didn't have more attendance at the public testimony. The Presidential Debate was going on at the same time and the weather was rainy.

Amy felt that doing the Midwest Academy items during the Council meeting helped to bring everybody together onto the same page.

Teresa said that she had heard from folks that they might not review the entire Midwest Academy but instead focused on the arguments and what would we say rather than going through all of the pieces that were there.

Amy commented that while sitting at the Council meeting, Anna had commented that it seems like every year when we go to Juneau, we ask for money for Early Intervention. She said don't you think that they will get tired of hearing about Early Intervention? Amy thought that was a very good comment and went back to IALPA and EIC and feel that we need to be very clear about demands on Early Intervention not just saying that we have more referrals and we should research to find out if we really have those numbers. Amy appreciated the comments and made her stop and think.

Millie Ryan said that she heard from new members that they liked the orientation and are ready to take on the Council responsibilities. She also said that people mentioned that they liked the seating arrangements and that we should keep that plan. Teresa Holt said that she got positive feedback from Council members also.

Eric Gebhart said he felt real positive about the way things went, the new folks got engaged, so that was really good to see and logistically we set it up so that it could work and we will keep that in mind going forward. Teresa said that from the staff's point of view, it is easier to do nametags, booklets and all that kind of stuff if it is already out. That way we don't have to have somebody doing that at the beginning of the meeting. Once it was all set up, it caused less congestion getting into the room. Eric agreed that it was a good idea and we should use the same system for the next meeting, so that people are set up next to people that can we can have good help and participation.

### **Executive Director Transition**

The position is now posted and closes on November 23rd. Millie said that she had set down with staff and looked at the staff task list and the things that she does, what was coming up and who was going to take the responsibilities for what. We do have that in place to help with the transition. Eric said to let them know if there are things the committee can do as Council members to support what is going on as well. Eric said that he wanted to make sure the Executive Committee is aware, just in case they weren't that Tara Horton has taken on the responsibilities of getting things posting for the position. She ended up having to take a class to become a Hiring Manager. I'm not sure if she knew what she volunteered for when she did. She has gotten it done and I want to make sure when this is all over that she gets the recognition she deserves publically. I plan on letting Kim Poppe-Smart or whoever would be correct to be aware that is was a big help to us to have somebody to take care of those logistics.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Teresa said that the position for the EIC/Ed staff member has closed and we are interviewing and hopefully will have somebody selected by the end of the week. We have 20+ applicants and we have 7 good possibilities.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **January 2013 Council Meeting**

Millie read over the preliminary agenda. For the first day, what we have

done in the past is have key folks from the departments and divisions have come and given their perspective on the budget and other relative bills. The order may not stay the same, but we usually start with the Commissioner, he may assign somebody. Last year, Senior and Disabilities Services, Duane Mayes. Kim Poppe-Smart, Jeff Jessee, Clarke Groening from Key Colition. Millie asked if the Inclusive Practices committee wanted to meet during lunch. Teresa commented that would not work because they will be done by then. Millie continued that in the afternoon, we moved the Legislative Committee report earlier because they had things to share in terms of meetings. David and Kalyssa and Teresa will be next, preparing for meetings with Legislators most of the afternoon.

Wednesday is simply meeting with individual Legislators and aides. Kalyssa will be working on that and setting up who will be meeting with who. Kathy said that she would like to discuss the wrap up. Millie asked to wait to discuss that. Teresa suggested that that when people come back from their appointments, that they give feedback right then to either Kalyssa, Sheryl or Michelle concerning what happened. The group said that this went well with the Trust meeting and also at Key. That way your memory is still fresh and everybody is still excited about it. In the evening, we will have Public Testimony and gathering.

Millie said that on Thursday, we won't have the PPR because it is not due until March, so we can take off that report from the agenda. Teresa said that would be discussed at the May meeting. Millie suggested that since we would not have debriefing during the meeting, that somebody go through the comments and try to come up with common themes from everybody. During the Thursday portion of the meeting, we could have a debriefing recap summary. That may influence future activities. Eric said that we need to talk about the feedback that the individuals give and share that so we find some common themes and have good ideas for moving forward. Millie said that we would have the Ad Hoc committee on Rural Services and the Ad Hoc committee on Autism so we need to add those to the agenda. Millie felt that we would potentially be done by 10:15 and have additional time available for meetings. Patrick asked if there would be time for the Health and Disabilities committee.

Millie said that she would make the second draft of the agenda for the next meeting, knowing that there will be additional changes when they meet

again.

Eric asked if we wait until January to contact the different commissioners and departments that will be coming on that first day. Millie said that she would go ahead and do that now. She commented that they had cut down on the number of people that we wanted to come and speak.

#### Appointment of Interim Executive Director

With applications closing on November 23, and the next week being Millie's last week, we will have a short amount of time where we are needing to go with an Interim Executive Director. The exact length of time may depend on who is hired and what their availability is. Eric commented that from the Council staff, Teresa Holt and Patrick Reinhart are applying. It was Eric's recommendation that since Rich Sanders is not applying for the position that we ask him if he would consider being the Interim Director. That way, with Teresa and Patrick applying, we would avoid any conflicts with that. Millie suggested that Carrie Predeger be a backup. Eric agreed to make the contact with Rich and Carrie concerning this. Amy Simpson asked if the Interim position continued for a couple of months or more, would Rich or Carrie have capacity to deal with the duties. Millie said that Debbie Loveid would be coming and giving financial support. We also have support from Administration and DSDS that will be available for the Interim Director. Kathy commented that she felt the rest of the staff will just continue to do their work. They all know what needs to be done. Millie commented that this is primarily having somebody to sign off on things that only the Executive Director is authorized to do.

Eric commented that the Executive Committee will help with things they can that Millie would normally do, such as the Agenda for the Executive Committee. Eric said that he would be able to do those kinds of duties. Those of us that have time should volunteer to assist. Teresa mentioned that there are several meetings that will need to be attended, such as the Trust that Millie would normally attend. Millie commented that is one reason we went over the staff task list so that we would know who would be responsible for which meetings. She said that we have backups as to who was going to be responsible for those kinds of communications. She also said that there are a number of administrative things she will be taking care of before she leaves. She will have everything ready for the non-perm position for Sheryl to process after the first of January when we can

process the position. She also mentioned that if needed, she will be available for assistance after she has left the position.

Eric asked for a motion to authorize him to appoint an Interim Executive Director. Kathy moved and Ric seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **Trust Advocacy Summit**

Millie said that it is the week after the Council Meeting. The Trust meeting itself is the 30th and 31st. She said that last year, when the Advocacy Summit being the week after the Council Meeting, they found that a lot of similar topics were approached and the Legislators felt they had already had heard the same topics. The Council, rather than talking about the Complex Behavior Collaborative, we could say that we support it. All of the Boards are supporting the CBC. We don't want to duplicate entire coverage one week apart from the Trust Summit. Kathy asked if the Trust had more weight than we do. Millie felt that we could lead the discussion rather than Terri from the Trust. Millie said she could mention that. She felt the Council were the only ones who would be bringing up Early Intervention, they were the only ones who would be working with Employment First and some of the other items that were on the list. Millie said that the Trust has paid for 5 people to go to the Advocacy Summit and we would have to think about who those 5 people would be. Kathy said that both she and Ric were interested in going. Amy felt that there should be someone there from Early Intervention. Millie said that last year it was Eric, Ric, Kathy, Millie and Teresa. She said that once they determine what the 2 items would be, it would be easier to determine who would go.

## **REPORTS**

### **Chair's Report**

Eric recently spent time with Patrick and Genieve at SESA. He said that they did a full 8-1/2 x 11 map of Alaska and they put on it the school districts where they have kids and the number of kids served in each school district. He said there were 229 kids and they were all listed by district name and numbers. That way, any legislator can know of any kids that are in school districts within their legislative area, would know how many kids that SESA is impacting in their area.

Eric said that we looked at a few areas of funding and what seemed to make the most sense to him was to ask for the 36% increase which is what the Legislative Audit alluded to. After that it would be an annual increase of .55% per year. Patrick feels pretty confident that the Department of Education will be supportive. Millie said that she felt from what Patrick had said that they expected the Council to carry the water for funding. Eric said that our advantage is that they have to pass some kind of legislation due to the sunset ending. He felt confident that we would be able to get something moving on both sides, with the House and the Senate. Millie said that the Legislature Budget and Audit committee did give their blessings and it might be good to go back and see who was on that committee and see if there is anybody in particular because they are familiar and they might be the right ones to introduce it.

Teresa asked how his presentations went at the forum. Eric said that it went very well. He said that they found several people that would be willing to testify on behalf of SESA before the Legislature if needed.

Other than that, he has been working on Executive Director transition.

Kathy asked if Eric knew how many applications had posted so far. He had not had a chance to get together with Tara yet to get that information.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Legislative Committee**

Teresa said that the committee decided to meet tomorrow to get in an extra meeting working on position papers. They have drafted one for SESA and the CBC. They are working on Employment First and Infant Learning. She said that she and Margaret Kossler have been working on the wording for the position papers, writing them so that they are clearly understood.

Teresa said that they would be sending those papers out for everyone to look at and give feedback. They will then have one more meeting in December

### **DD Committee**

Kathy said they had discussed Housing and the trend towards looking at Natural Support as something that is being mandated and how it can have a negative impact. She said that once that support is expected, it is no

longer natural. Nancy from the Trust Authority came and talked to us about housing.

## **Education Committee**

Taylor didn't have anything to report. Teresa said that she had sent out applications for the Inclusive Practice Award. She said that ASSEC is the first week in February this year, rather than the third. Everything has gotten moved up. All deadlines will be before the Council meeting so that we can get the plaques ordered and get the presentations set. She encouraged people to be thinking of people connected with the schools who might be good nominees.

Patrick said that there will be 2 presentations. One will be transitions from school to work. The contacts will be Patrick Reinhart, Rich Sanders and Art Arnold. The other will be on the Health and Emergency Preparedness, getting people with disabilities prepared for emergencies. Teresa said that for ASSEC, they had twice as many requests to do presentations as they had room which has never had before. She passed on that Ernie Manzie said we need to step up and do something about the Exit Exam, that we can't just keep talking about it. That is on the agenda for the next Education Committee meeting.

## **Early Intervention**

Amy Simpson said they have been working with AILPA on the link in the Legislative white papers on Early Intervention. They have been trying to be very thoughtful about what questions people are going to come up with. Things like how many more evaluations are you going to do. We want to gather more data and are working on that. We want a very clear set of talking points. We have tried to divide up our work plan and work groups. They have a task force working on the recruitment, retention process and forgiveness of student loans. They are also working on the social media process with Karli Lopez. We have divided it into task groups. Teresa commented that the EIC Regs are going to be released soon. Teresa said they had repealed all of the regulations and were submitting totally new ones.

## **Rural Ad Hoc**

Teresa said that the Technology Survey was done. It is all ready to go, they are just researching who to send it to. They have the list of senior providers. Hopefully that will be done this week and they get some good feedback.

### **Ad Hoc Committee on Medicaid Reform**

Ric was meeting with Carrie next week to write the letter to the Commissioner. That is all that he had.

### **Ad Hoc Committee on Autism**

Millie said the committee met on November 1st and talked about a number of things. One was the Legislative Task Force. It looks like Dan Saddler and Johnnie Ellis will be on the task force. Another unnamed Legislator asked for a lot of research on what the state of the state is on Autism services right now. Millie said that Heidi Haas has been contacted by Dan Saddler and it looks like she will be the person representing the Council with Margaret Kossler as backup. Maureen from Behavior Health brought Dr. Seagel to talk to the group. He has a program in Maine, one of about ten in the country that provide very short term intensive training for children with autism with very challenging behaviors. Their average length of stay is 17 days and then get kids back into their schools and with their families. North Star is interested in exploring the possibilities of similar programs here in town.

The committee also decided that there are too many surveys going out through the Council, so since the Center for Human Development offered to re-survey school districts and survey Infant Learning Providers and DD Providers to find out what they are doing as far as Autism services. Kathy Allalea did one in 2006 and we feel that things have changed a lot since then.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Millie said a lot of what she is doing is making sure that things are in place for the new Executive Director and trying to follow up on some key things such as the Autism Report for Legislative Research. The Trust is having a

Trust Planning meeting on the 16th and they want some updated information. They also want some new information for focus areas. The Trust meeting itself is on the 15th and we will give our normal report. They generally want to know about planning and advocacy at the November meeting. We have a meeting on the 7th for the Health Promotion Planning Group, Patrick is coordinating that. They have a meeting tomorrow for the recommendations for changes for the working disabled buy in. They want a package of services available for folks who want to opt in. They are looking at some supportive employment-like services for people who might not necessarily be eligible for waiver or are on a wait list for waiver. They are meeting with folks from Medicaid and Vocational Rehabilitation. We want to see if we can get some parameters around that. The LEND program (Leadership and Neuro-Developmental) is having a sight review. The Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities is having a meeting on the 14th and Millie will be giving a report to them on the Council's Legislative priorities. The Key Coalition is meeting on the 30th of November. She said that Patrick had asked to speak about the State as a Model Employer, concerning the survey. They are still working on what is the best way to report the results. Jason Burke, the ADA Coordinator has it now and will be making a few changes. Patrick added that this is a major 12 page report and he feels the timing is right because of what information the Governor has been requesting as far as information.

### **TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be Monday, December 3rd at noon to 1:30.

### **Good of the order**

Remember Millie's retirement party on the 29th from 3:30-5:30 on the 8th Floor. Millie mentioned that she had presented to SILC. They are asking for another increment for this year and are asking the support of the Council. Eric expressed his thanks again for all that Millie has done for the Council and how much he and the Executive Committee appreciate her. We are thrilled for Millie and sad for ourselves. Millie said thank you.

### **ADJOURN**

Ric moved that they adjourn. Kathy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:33p.m.